To: Professor William W. Damon, Chair of A & S Faculty Council

From: George Becker, Chair of Committee on Academic Standards and Procedures

Date: February 1, 2006

Re: Policy proposals relating to the granting of course credits in foreign language courses

The Second Language Acquisition Committee (SLAC) asked the Committee on Academic Standards and Procedures (CASP) to review a set of recommendations designed to eliminate certain “abuses” related to the granting of course credits. In line with existing policy, the foreign language departments grant intermediate and sometimes additional higher course credit on the basis of AP or IB test scores. It has come to the attention of these departments that some students who received such credit subsequently enrolled in the first- and/or second-semester courses of the same language for credit without loss of their AP or IB credit. Seeking to eliminate this along with some other related abuses, the SLAC submitted the following four recommendations:

1. Any student who has received AP or IB credit in French, German, Japanese, Latin, Russian, or Spanish and subsequently takes a first- or second-semester course should lose the AP or IB credit previously granted.

2. In the same way that the current NCRC (No Credit/Repeat Credit) report cautions students with the loss of AP or IB credit when they register for the same course for which such credit was granted, the report should also caution students with the loss of upper-level foreign language AP or IB credit were they to enroll in first- or second-semester level courses in the same language.

3. In the spirit of recommendation #2, students who have successfully taken an intermediate-level course at Vanderbilt should also be advised by an NCRC report that they will receive no credit for subsequently taking a first- or second-semester course in that same language.

4. Similar to recommendation #3, students who have successfully taken an advanced language course should be advised by an NCRC report that they will receive no credit for subsequently taking a beginning or intermediate level course in that same language.

CASP finds these four recommendations reasonable and proposes the Faculty Council’s approval.